in the 'Times of India' dated the 3rd September, 1994;

(b) if so, who has defrauded whom; and

(c) what is the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a fraud was detected in the National Clearing Centre (NCC) of RBI at Bombay on 30th July, 1994. 48 cheques for a total amount of Rs. 13.24 lakhs are suspected to have been pilfered from the lots of cheques presented by 15 member banks including one sub-member bank at the NCC. Four machine operators working in the NCC along with some outside parties are suspected to be behind the fraud perpetrated on the 15 members banks of the NCC. The Central Bureau of Investigation, Bombay have taken up investigations into the fraud and the RBI have placed the four machine operators under suspention and departmental proceeding have been initiated against them.

The RBI has alerted all its branches managing the clearing houses about the modus operandi followed in the fraud and to take necessary steps to prevent recurrence of the fraud. The member banks of the clearing house have been advised to reconcile their clearing differences on a regular basis and be very vigilant to avoid accumulation of clearing differences.

**Smuggling of Gold**

2191. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is spurt in gold smuggling into the country following liberalization process;

(b) if so, the quantity of gold seized during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what further steps Government are considering to check gold smuggling into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) There has been no spurt in smuggling of gold into the country following liberalized imports of gold.

(b) The quantity of gold seized during last three years is as follows:

| Year | Qty. in Kgs. |
|---|---|
| 1992-93 | 2339 |
| 1993-94 | 1233 |
| 1994-95* (Upto Feb., 95) | 1069 |

*Figures are provisional.

(c) Anti smuggling agencies of the Central and State Government are alert to detect & prevent smuggling including smuggling of gold.

**Foreign Aid**

2192. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 989 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1994 and state:

(a) why loans are being described as "aid' or "assistance'.

(b) why does Government seek foreign loans for projects life afforestation or slum clearance etc.; and

(c) whether Government will consider taking foreign loans for projects needing foreign technology and only to that extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The external assistance from bilateral and multilateral official sources consists of loans as well as grants. These loans are received on highly concessional terms, i.e. on lower rate of interest, as opposed to commercial borrowings and longer repayment period. Hence, these are called aid or assistance.

(b) Since the conditions of loans in sectors like afforestation, slum clearance etc. are very soft compared to other sectors, there is demand for availing of such concessional loans. In view of the demand from the line Ministries / State Governments, concessional loans are sought.

(c) No, Sir. Government usually resorts to foreign loans for meeting the resource gap and for implementing various projects in various

sectors including projects needing foreign technology.

**Charges against chairman Uttarbanga Keshetriya Grameen Bank**

2193. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious charges framed against Chairman, Uttarbanga Kshetriya Grameen Bank by Inspection Department of Central Bank of India;

(b) what are the charges against him submitted by the Management Audit and Inspection report conducted by Central Bank of India and submitted in March, 1993; and

(c) the action taken against him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Central Bank of India (CBI) conducted management audit of Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank (UBKGB) covering the period 1992-93 and submitted the report on 25-3-1994. The irregularities / deficiencies covered in the report referred to aspects relating to functioning / performance of the UBKGB, such as not holding the prescribed minimum number of meetings, not placing the progress reports under important parameters before the Board, branch visit reports not being held on record, non-creation of a cell at the Head Office to review funds management, excess staff at the Head Office, etc. For rectification of irregularities, Central Bank of India has been following up the matter with the Chairman of the UBKGB from time to time.

**Security arrangements at Sultanpur Grameen Bank**

2194. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chairman, Sultanpur Gramin Bank has taken security arrangements at Head Office; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the expenditure per month borne by this Rural Bank for such security arrangements and what amount has so far been paid; and

(c) whether such expenditure is allowed by Government; if not, what action has been taken by Government against the Chairman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bank of Baroda (BOB), the Sponsor Bank of Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank (SKGB), has reported that keeping in view the security and safety of SKGB's property and personnel on account of the continued agitational programme resorted to by the Staff of the Bank, the District Authorities provided security arrangements at Bank's Head Office and at Chairman's residence from 6th October, 1994.

(b) The expenditure borne by the Gramin Bank for such security arrangement is as under:-

| Month | Amount paid |
|---|---|
| 06-10-94 to 31-10-94 | Rs. 39,200 |
| 01-11-94 to 30-11-94 | Rs. 44,400 |
| December, 1994 | Rs. 20,000 |

January, 1995 onwards Rs. 15,000 per month is being paid due to a gradual reduction in number of security personnel.

(c) The Board of Directors of Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank in their 97th Meeting held on 14-02-1995 approved the action taken by the Bank's Management in connection with the security arrangement at Head Office and Chairman's residence as it helped smooth functioning of the bank.

**Daftary allowance to messengers in Regional Rural Banks**

2195. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has allowed the Regional Rural Banks to extend the facility of Daftary allowance to messengers as per sponsoring Banks in their order issued in July, 1991;

(b) whether the State Bank of India has not yet allowed such benefit to its sponsored Regional Rural Banks; if so, the reasons therefor;